

**Council on Postsecondary Education  
November 7, 2005**

**Doctor of Physical Therapy  
University of Kentucky**

*Universities are required to submit all new doctoral programs to the Council for approval. The Doctor of Physical Therapy proposed by the University of Kentucky will replace the combined baccalaureate/master's degree currently offered, enabling graduates to provide direct access to patients and aligning the program with current accreditation trends.*

**ACTION: The staff recommends that the Council approve the Doctor of Physical Therapy (CIP 51.2308) proposed by the University of Kentucky.**

The University of Kentucky proposes a Doctor of Physical Therapy to replace the existing Bachelor of Health Science/Master of Science in Physical Therapy dual degree program. As one of two physical therapy programs in Kentucky, the new program will better prepare graduates to compete in an ever-changing health care arena where patients have direct access to physical therapy services. (The other program offered by Bellarmine University already has transitioned to the DPT.) The new program requires an additional 20 hours of instruction, including nine hours of clinical education and 11 hours of didactic coursework in such high-need areas as differential diagnosis, pharmacology, patient management, administration, interpretation and use of rapidly evolving scientific literature, public health, aging, and wellness.

The DPT is rapidly becoming the preferred professional degree for practitioners across the country. The American Physical Therapy Association predicts that 81 percent of all physical therapy programs will be enrolling students into DPT programs by January 2006. Of the 34 programs ranked above UK's physical therapy program nationally, 27 have transitioned to a DPT.

UK will continue to enroll approximately 64 students annually – 48 at the Lexington campus and 16 at the Center for Rural Health in Hazard. Tuition increases are anticipated to generate \$452,820 in additional revenue, which will fund three new faculty members, three graduate assistants through the rehabilitation sciences doctoral program, and one staff member. These new positions are necessary due to increased course development and preparation time, as well as increased student contact hours and advising.

The UK Board of Trustees approved the program at its June 14, 2005, meeting.

Staff preparation by Melissa McGinley